

STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Joseph C. Greenley, Director

Quarterly Project Progress Report

CLEARWATER RIVER DEVELOPMENT OF
SPRING CHINOOK AND STEELHEAD STOCKS

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Contract No. 29-ABC-0036

Period Covered: April 1 to June 30, 1979

Columbia River Fisheries Development Program

September, 1979

Clearwater River Development of Spring Chinook and Steelhead Stocks

ABSTRACT

During the spring of 1979, a total of 1,047,890 spring chinook fry emerged from Indian Creek Incubation Channel on the Selway River. The emergence percentage of 49.1 is the third best in the last ten years.

Rapid River Hatchery reared 156,362 chinook smolts which were released into the Lochsa River in April, 1979. An additional 44,373 smolts from Rapid River were released into the South Fork Clearwater.

REPORT OF PROGRESS

Indian Creek Incubation Channel

During October of 1978, a total of 2,135,672 eyed chinook eggs from Rapid River Hatchery were placed in Indian Creek Incubation Channel. The trap used to catch and enumerate emerging fry was installed in the channel on April 19. By the end of April, only 5,435 fry had been enumerated from the channel compared to 26,480 in 1978. The extremely cold weather during this past winter (several days of -25°F) delayed fry emergence this spring. By mid-May, 55,625 fry had been enumerated in 1979 compared to 381,680 in 1978. Peak emergence did not occur until June 8 and trapping continued until June 20. Forest Service personnel from the West Fork District enumerated fry from the channel during the last week of trapping.

A total of 947,890 fry were trapped and distributed by vehicle to several release sites in the Selway River and selected tributaries (Table 1). The channel tender estimated that an additional 100,000 fry were washed out of the channel during some flooding in May. This would bring the total number of fry emerging from the channel to 1,047,890 for an emergence percentage of 49.1.

Table 2 compares the emergence percentage from egg to fry for Indian Creek Incubation Channel from the fall of 1970 to the spring of 1979. The survival percentage has been consistently high during the past three years when a channel tender lived at the channel site during the winter.

Table 1. Spring chinook fry plants from Indian Creek Hatching Channel into the Selway River drainage, 1979

Date released	Release site	Number released
April 23-May 11	At Channel	35,475
May 14	Beaver Point	20,150
May 15	Magruder Ranger Station	20,150
May 16	Snake Creek	18,060
May 17	Cayuse Creek	50,400
May 18	Deep Creek	36,960
May 19	White Cap Creek	16,800
May 21	Paradise	33,600

Date released	Release site	Number released
May 23	Beaver Point	67,200
May 24	Magruder Ranger Station	35,200
May 25	Paradise	13,400
May 29	CCC Camp	67,200
May 31	Deep Creek	15,200
June 2	Magruder Crossing	41,280
June 2	Paradise	41,280
June 4	Beaver Point	69,120
June 5	Magruder Ranger Station	41,280
June 8	Beaver Point	35,360
June 9	Paradise	54,400
June 10	Deep Creek	54,400
June 11	Magruder Ranger Station	54,400
June 12	At Channel	27,200
June 13	Paradise	27,200
June 15-20	At Channel	72,175
Total Counted		947,890
Estimate into River from overflow		100,000
Grand Total		1,047,890
Eyed eggs placed in channel		2,135,672
Percent emergence		49.1

Table 2. Comparison of fry emergence percentages at Indian Creek Incubation channel with eyed eggs being planted during the fall of one year and resultant fry emerging during the spring of the following year, 1970-1979

Year	Number of eggs placed in channel	Number of fry emerging	Percent emergence	Egg source
1970	2,215,941	-	-	Rapid River
1971	1,623,080	839,716	37.9	Carson National
1972	2,956,179	524,710	32.3	Rapid River
1973*	2,029,316	1,613,550	54.6	Rapid River
1974	2,207,000	962,335	47.4	Cowlitz Hatchery
1975	2,406,731	770,000	34.9	Rapid River
1976 ¹	1,613,383	400,000	16.6	Rapid River
1977* ¹	2,740,470	723,960	44.9	Rapid River
1978 ¹	2,135,672	1,458,980	53.2	Rapid River
1979	-	1,047,890	49.1	

*Extremely light snow pack and low runoff.

¹Channel tender stayed at channel from November 1-June 15.

Chinook Smolt Releases

Table 3 summarizes chinook smolt releases into the Lochsa River and South Fork of the Clearwater River during April, 1979. All smolts released in these streams were reared at Rapid River Hatchery. They were released at 21 per pound and appeared to be in excellent condition at time of release.

Table 3. Spring chinook smolt releases into the Clearwater River Drainage, 1979

Date released	Stream	Release site	Number released
April 18	Lochsa River	White Sand Creek Bridge	38,035
April 19	Lochsa River	White Sand Creek Bridge	44,373
April 25	Lochsa River	White Sand Creek Bridge	44,373
April 26	Lochsa River	White Sand Creek Bridge	29,582
Lochsa River total			156,362
April 24	South Fork Clearwater River	Newsome Creek Bridge	44,373
Clearwater Drainage grand total			200,735

Submitted by:

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